



# Pond Possibilities

VOLUME 4 - ISSUE 2

FALL 2003



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MANCHESTER URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM

## THE RESULTS ARE IN! MANCHESTER RESIDENTS PROVIDE FEEDBACK VIA WATERSHED SURVEYS

This spring, the UPRP conducted a public awareness survey to better understand public attitudes toward Manchester's urban ponds. With assistance from the UNH Survey Center, we designed the survey to tell us what people know about the ponds, and how they feel they have changed over the years. The survey consisted of 14 questions. We asked people to describe the condition of the ponds (polluted, clean, etc.), and to rate the effectiveness of several possible solutions. We also asked questions relative to wildlife and volunteer opportunities. 2,000 surveys were sent to a randomly selected sample of registered Manchester voters. We received 350 responses. Here is what you told us:



*Dorrs Pond. Photo by Cyndy Carlson*

The majority of respondents know the location of 5 of the 7 urban ponds. The same majority however, do not know the locations of Maxwell or McQuesten Ponds.

- ❖ Only 25% of respondents had heard of the UPRP before the survey.
- ❖ 69% of respondents know what a watershed is.
- ❖ 28% of respondents think that Manchester's urban ponds are polluted or very polluted.
- ❖ 91% of respondents think the ponds are very valuable or somewhat valuable for wildlife
- ❖ 80% of respondents think the ponds are very valuable or somewhat valuable for recreation.
- ❖ 70% of respondents have lived in Manchester for more than 20 years and almost half of respondents were between 40 and 59 years old. The smallest age bracket represented was 18-29 year olds at 4%.

The survey will be repeated next spring to determine any changes in public awareness as a result of the UPRP's efforts.

## PROJECTS UNDERWAY AT CRYSTAL LAKE & DORRS POND

Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) has completed engineering plans for the UPRP's first "in-the-ground" projects. These projects include water quality improvement structures at Crystal Lake and Dorrs Pond. The structures at Crystal Lake will address nutrient and pollution runoff from Corning Road and the City Beach parking area. At Dorrs Pond, improvements will be made to the tributary that collects runoff from an area of D.W. Highway including several commercial sites and many residences. Pending NHDES Wetlands Board approval, the projects will be put out to bid this winter for spring construction. All three of the projects are being partially funded by grants from NH DES, which the UPRP was awarded in 2002 and 2003.

## SPRING POND CLEANUPS SUCCESSFUL!



*Marty Gavin (Highway Department) helps load the City Dumptruck with trash collected at McQuesten Pond. Photo by Art Grindle.*

In a series of spring cleanups, 20 volunteers assisted staff from the UPRP collect and properly dispose of over 69 bags of trash at five ponds! As expected, the most heavily degraded of the ponds were Nutts and McQuesten, respectively. 33 of the 69 bags of trash were from Nutts Pond, and 2,680 pounds of trash was removed from the vicinity of McQuesten Pond. On the contrary, the cleanest of the ponds were Dorrs Pond, with only 6 bags of trash collected, and Maxwell Pond, with only seven.

What was collected from these ponds? Disposable items such as plastic bottles, food wrappers, and containers were among the usual, as well as items (in which people refuse to pay to properly dispose of) such as car tires, car batteries, other automotive parts, large electronics and furniture. Volunteers also collected other items such as 2 shopping carts, 7 tires, 1 park bench, 1 kayak, 12 pieces of lumber, 1 broken duck box, 3 auto parts, chairs, stools, tables, wood, and metal pieces.

To our surprise, the debris in the vicinity of McQuesten Pond appeared to come from mostly from adjacent businesses. Volunteers found a large pile of construction debris consisting of flooring tile, sheetrock, and plaster materials, as well as wall-framing lumber, metal doorways, doors, tables, chairs, lumber, and other debris. In addition, a large cable wheel and heating oil tank were found in the wetland itself. It was obvious that dumpsters from area businesses were not being emptied, and non-disposable materials were being stockpiled. The UPRP is working with area businesses to remedy this issue. UPRP would like to individually thank the following volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to assist with spring pond cleanups:

Emily Burr , Christos Chakas, Andy Chapman, Heidi Clark, Christa Elliott, Rita Espinosa, Marty Gavin, Liz Gestude, Louella Grindle, Tabitha Grindle, Blanche Grondin, Pete Martineau, Lowell McPherson, Candace Puchaz, Carolyn Puchaz, Scott Shepard, Steven Smith, Phyllis Stewart, Gail Trimbur, Steve Viggiano

## FALL CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

**Each cleanup will be held from 9-12:00** but volunteers are not obligated to stay the entire time. Rakes, garbage bags, and gloves will be provided. Just bring yourself, a friend, and your community spirit of volunteerism! We look forward to meeting you, and greatly appreciate your assistance! The fall cleanup schedule is as follows:

Dorrs Pond: **September 13**; Maxwell Pond: **September 13**; Nutts Pond: **October 4**;  
Stevens Pond: **October 11**; McQuesten Pond: **October 18**.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION REMINDER

This message is to remind you not to dump your yard waste (leaves, lawn clippings, weeds, tree branches, sawdust, compost, etc) on the City parkland adjacent to the ponds. This practice is unlawful and harmful to water quality. The City Highway Department provides a free, bi-weekly curb-side collection service on the day that your recycling is collected. Containers marked with an orange "Yard Waste" stickers and/or paper lawn bags are acceptable. To obtain free stickers, or for more information on collection schedules, contact the Highway Dept at 624-6444 or [www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/DPW/HWY/Home.html](http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/DPW/HWY/Home.html)

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION ENDEAVORS

- ❖ On April 7th, Jen Drociak and Art Grindle presented the UPRP to two **freshman ecology classes at St. Anselms**. They presented an overview of the program, biological and water quality monitoring, outreach and education endeavors, and some of the projects being used to curb further degradation to our urban ponds. **Over 100 students** were at the **lecture**, and many of them accompanied Art to Nutts Pond for a hands-on **field trip** and **trail walk**. A total of **122 UPRP brochures** and **96 SEPP brochures** were **distributed** at this time.
- ❖ On April 24th, Jen Drociak and Art Grindle spoke at the first annual “**Manchester Earth Day Forum**”, which was held at the new PSNH Energy Park. The event gathered **over 100 attendees**, and was a successful event. In fact, **204 UPRP fact-sheets** were **distributed** and the program peaked the interest of many people. Many SEPP project partners were in attendance, and speakers and organizers of the event included The Nature Conservancy, For Manchester, Merrimack River Watershed Council, Amoskeag Fishways, Camp Dresser & McKee, Manchester Health Department, Hands Across the Merrimack, Manchester Conservation Commission, EPA New England, Manchester Water Works, Manchester Parks & Recreation, Manchester Department & Community Development, Manchester Department of Public Works, Voices & Choices, Queen City Trails Alliance, UNH Cooperative Extension, and Friends of the Valley Cemetery.
- ❖ On May 3rd, Jen Drociak was an exhibitor at the Amoskeag Fishways “**Fabulous Fishways Carnival**.” Jen was among several exhibitors including DES Rivers Management Program, the Nature Conservancy, NH Fish & Game, Audubon Society and many local river advisory committees. Jen spoke to many people and talked about the Urban Ponds Restoration Program and local ecology at the ponds. **121 fact-sheets** were **distributed**.
- ❖ On June 21st, Jen Drociak spoke at the **NH Lakes Association’s Annual Congress**. Her presentation was entitled “**At the End of the Pipe: Issues & Impacts Associated With Urban Waterbodies**.” Though only a handful of people attended this session, it was well-received. Senator Judd Gregg was at the event and heard about the efforts of the UPRP.

## INFORMATIONAL KIOSKS AT EACH POND

This spring, with help from Eagle Scout Aaron Biedrzycki, three kiosks were constructed and three others were updated. There are now kiosks at each pond. Jen Drociak, Art Grindle, and 2002 intern Lydia Henry created several maps, posters, flyers, and fact-sheets for the kiosks including information on Common Exotic Plants, Common Fish, History fact-sheets and notices on nonpoint source pollution. The UPRP would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to Aaron and his crew for assisting us with this long-overdue endeavor!



*Dorrs Pond kiosk. Photo by Jen Drociak*

### A NOTICE TO ALL JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS:

The UPRP is available to present the program, its goals, water quality sampling, and outreach/education endeavors. Invite us to your classroom and hear an interactive presentation! We are also available to lead field trips to area ponds! Contact Jen Drociak at (603) 647-1826 or e-mail [urbanponds@yahoo.com](mailto:urbanponds@yahoo.com)

## POND POSSIBILITIES NOW AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

Would you like to receive this publication electronically instead? The UPRP now has an electronic newsletter mailing list, and Pond Possibilities can be sent to you in PDF format. If you would rather receive this mailing electronically, please send an e-mail to Jen Drociak at [urbanponds@yahoo.com](mailto:urbanponds@yahoo.com)

### POND POSSIBILITIES

Pond Possibilities is a bi-annual publication of the Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program.

Art Grindle – **Program Coordinator**

Jen Drociak – Editor & Layout

#### **Conservation Commissioners**

Michael Poisson – Eric Skoglund

Jen Drociak – JoAnn O'Shaughnessy

Kathleen Neville – Todd Connors

Marty Gavin

1 City Hall Plaza – Manchester NH 03103

(603) 624-6450

[agrindle@ci.manchester.nh.us](mailto:agrindle@ci.manchester.nh.us)

[www.manchester.nh.gov/UrbanPonds](http://www.manchester.nh.gov/UrbanPonds)

### NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit <http://www.ci.manchester.nh.us/UrbanPonds> to find a new list of educational and project partner links, and downloadable publications created by the Urban Ponds Restoration Program.

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Over the last four years, the Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program has enlisted the help of dozens of volunteers to assist with water quality sampling, nonpoint source pollution shoreline surveys, outreach/education endeavors, and bi-annual cleanups at each of the seven ponds. As a token of our gratitude, we are planning a volunteer appreciation barbeque and end-of-season program wrap-up. This event will include a presentation on the UPRP including a program overview, obstacles, success stories to date, and future endeavors. Complimentary brochures, fact-sheets, and other publications will be available. Stay tuned for more information!

## MANCHESTER URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM

1 City Hall Plaza

Manchester, NH 03101

(603) 624-6450

[www.manchesternh.gov/UrbanPonds](http://www.manchesternh.gov/UrbanPonds)

**MAIL TO:**